

Pennsylvania Natural Resource Conservation Service
Farm And Ranch Lands Protection Program

ENTITY ELIGIBILITY

1. Is the applicant organization:

An agency of state or local government or a Federally recognized Indian tribe?

OR A qualifying nongovernmental organization? Yes No

To be “qualifying,” the nongovernmental organization must:

- be organized principally for the preservation of land for recreation, open space, historically important land areas and structures, and natural wildlife habitat; and
- be operated exclusively for charitable, religious, or educational purposes, with no part of its net earnings paid to any private shareholder or individual and no substantial part of its activities influencing legislation or intervening in any political campaign for or against a public office; and
- normally receive more than one-third of its support in each taxable year from any combination of gifts, grants, contributions, or membership fees, and normally receive not more than one-third of its support in each tax year from the sum of gross investment income.

Note: If the “No” box” is checked, you are not an eligible applicant for this program.

2. Does the applicant entity:

a. Have an established farmland protection program? Yes No

b. Have a demonstrated commitment to the long-term conservation of agricultural lands? Yes No

c. Utilize voluntary easement purchase or other legal device(s) to protect farmland? Yes No

d. Have the authority and demonstrate the capability to acquire, hold, manage, and enforce conservation easements or their equivalent? Yes No

e. Have title and appraisal policies or standards? Yes No

f. Have staff capacity or formal agreement with other entities dedicated to monitoring and easement stewardship? Yes No

g. Have a pending offer? Yes No

(Have proof of the pending offer. At minimum, the documentation must demonstrate intent and the presence of a willing seller and willing buyer. A pending offer” is a written bid, contract, or option extended to a landowner by an eligible entity to acquire a conservation easement for the purpose of limiting nonagricultural uses of the land. Pending offers must be for acquiring easements in perpetuity.)

h. Have sufficient funds available for easement acquisition? Yes No

(Funds must be either “in hand” or “committed,” as evidenced by an official award letter from a funding entity.)

Note: If any “No” box in Section 2 is checked, you are not an eligible applicant for this program unless you partner with an entity that is eligible until experience is gained.